



## Northern Great Plains Network Inventory and Monitoring Monthly Report

April 2005



***NPSpecies Data Certification:*** The certified (i.e., “official”) fish lists for Mt. Rushmore NMEM and Wind Cave NP are completed and are now recorded that way in NPSpecies. Over the next few months we expect a majority of the park species lists to be certified. For the most part the taxa experts have conducted their reviews and we are now waiting on the Technical Committee representative from each park to approve the lists. Parks are encouraged to quickly respond to requests for final review from Marcia Wilson to help expedite the process. In most cases the park review should take less than an hour.

***Water Quality Sampling Run:*** Jill Rust and Nels Troelstrup will be making a third and final water quality sampling run at all parks this spring/summer. They are tentatively scheduled to visit all parks between May 16 to June 11 (see the web calendar <http://www1.nature.nps.gov/im/units/ngpn/Calcium39.pl> for the exact dates for each park: the timing of the visit to Badlands NP is to be determined).

***Vegetation Pilot Study:*** Amy Symstad of USGS-BRD and Cody Wienk of the Northern Great Plains Fire Effects program will be conducting a pilot study this summer to test various protocols for monitoring vegetation communities. At this time the field sites selected for the study are located at Agate Fossil Beds NM, Devils Tower NM, Fort Laramie NHS, Theodore Roosevelt NP, and Wind Cave NP. A tentative schedule of field visits (with the exception of Fort Laramie NHS) can be found at <http://www1.nature.nps.gov/im/units/ngpn/Calcium39.pl> (hit the Contractors link).

***Personnel Issues:*** I’m happy to report that Laura Divine and Stacey Meyer have been hired as summer biological technicians. Their dates of employment are May 16 to August 19. Laura (along with Mike Bynum) will work with Amy Symstad in collecting vegetation data as part of our pilot study (see above). Stacey will assist Marcia Wilson on data entry and NPSpecies work. We were hoping to hire a 3<sup>rd</sup> biological technician for the summer, but were not able to find another person. If you know of good candidates that can be reached through the STEP program please have them contact Dan Licht (605 574-3193 or [dan\\_licht@nps.gov](mailto:dan_licht@nps.gov)). We expect to advertise for and hire a permanent fulltime administrative assistant over the next few months.

***Program Award for I&M Program:*** The Northern Great Plains I&M Program was recently recognized with a “Unit Citation for Excellence” award signed by the Midwest Region Regional Director. The award was presented to Gerard Baker on behalf of the program at a recent Superintendents meeting back in Omaha. The award recognized the “collaborative efforts with other agencies and universities (the collaboration with USGS-BRD was specifically mentioned)”, the within-agency “integration that will maximize efficiency”, and the progress that was being made by the I&M Program. Kudos to everyone in the Network for their role in these efforts. (The award will be used to update computer equipment for the Program.)